

Message Text

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46

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 /017 W

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R 171503Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3528

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 5583

FOR: VISA OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SW

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF REVISED FORMAT NIV

REF: A. STATE 268221 B. COPENHAGEN 3500

1) SUMMARY: STOCKHOLM'S ASSESSMENT OF REVISED FORMAT NIV VERY FAVORABLE. IT HAS SAVED TIME ALLOWING OFFICERS REDIRECT EFFORTS ELSEWHERE. NO ARGUMENTS AGAINST EXTENDING FORMAT TO OTHER POSTS SEEN FROM EXPERIENCE HERE. FURTHER SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCESSING IS STILL POSSIBLE AND RECOMMENDED. END SUMMARY

2 EXPERIENCE WITH REVISED NIV FORMAT BASED ON USE IN PERIOD (OCT-DEC) WHEN APPLICATIONS AT LOWEST DURING YEAR. PEAK SEASON (APRIL-SEPT) WILL BE REAL TEST. HOWEVER NEW FORMAT ALREADY SEEN AS SAVING OFFICERS TIME THUS ALLOWING MORE ATTENTION TO PROBLEM CASES AND SMOOTHER FLOW OF WORK, AS WELL AS ELIMINATING A PARTICULARLY TIRESOME CHORE.

3) IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS EMBASSY OFFERS FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT:

A) ALTHOUGH EXKHQUANTIFICATION DIFFICULT, ESTIMATE SAVINGS OF 150 FSO HOURS ANNUALLY BY NOT SIGNING AND 100 FSL HOURS ANNUALLY BY NOT STAMPING "BEARER" SEPARATELY.

B) YES, OFFICERS HAVE ORIENTED TIME SAVED TOWARD MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES AND CLOSER SCRUTINY OF CASES. TRADITIONAL LOW REFUSAL

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RATE HERE HAS INCREASED SLIGHTLY, BUT DOUBTFUL THIS RESULT OF NEW

FORMAT. OFFICER MORALE HAS INCREASED AS TIME NOW SEEN BETTER SPENT IN MORE WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES.

C) STOCKHOLM HAS FOR MANY YEARS EMPLOYED A STRAIGHT-LINE PROCESSING SIMILAR TO THAT DESCRIBED BY COPENHAGEN REFTEL B, PARA 1 A-E. THIS PROCEDURE EFFICIENT HERE DUE TO LOW FRAUD RATE AND RELIABILITY OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES. PROBABLY NOT APPLICABLE AT POSTS WYRESAME CIRCUMSTANCES NOT MET. ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF APPLICATIONS ARE RECOGNIZED AT STAGES A OR B AS PROBLEMS AND REFERRED TO OFFICER BEFORE STAMPING. CORRECTIONS OR CANCELLATIONS IN ROUTINE FLOW CAN BE MADE AT STAGE D BY OFFICER BUT RARELY NECESSARY.

D) OFFICER CONTROL OVER NIV PROCESSING BASICALLY UNCHANGED HERE. AT POSTS WHERE CIRCULAR PROCESSING WILL BE REPLACED BY STRAIGHT-LINE SOME DEGREE OF CONTROL PROBABLY WILL BE LOST. WHETHER THAT CONTROL SIGNIFICANT DEPENDS ON EACH POST'S CIRCUMSTANCES. MANUAL SIGNATURE LIKELY TO BE IMPORANT ONLY WHERE STRONG POSSIBILITY SUBORNATION OF LOCALS EXISTS, EVEN THERE FORGERY OF SIGNATURE IN VALID STAMP AS POSSIBLE AS FORGERY OF STAMP ITSELF.

E) FOR POSTS NOT AUTHORIZED USE "BEARER" SLUG STEP OF WRITING IN NAMES ALREADY EXISTS, NEW FORMAT WILL ND THER ADD NOR REMOVE THAT STEP BUT WILL SAVE OFFICERS TIME AND EFFORT AS IT HAS HERE.

F) CONSOFF HERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT NEW FORMAT AND FULLY SUPPORT IT AS MOVE TOWARDS NEEDED SIMPLIFICATION. MANUAL SIGNATURE SEEN AS TIME WASTED. EVEN IF ALL TIME SAVED IS REDIRECTED ONLY INTO STRICTER VNTRG CM COPENHAGEN'S PARA 2, REFTEL B) THE TIME IS BETTER SPENT.

4. CONSOFFS HERE BELIEVE STILL FURTHER SIMPLIFICATION POSSIBLE IN PHYSICAL PROCESSING OF VISAS BY ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY ANNOTATIONS, AND CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND THAT USE OF "BEARER" BE PERMITTED BEYOND PASSPORTS OF HOST COUNTRY AGAIN SUPPORTING COPENHAGENS POSITION (PARA 5, REFTEL B). THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE DEVELOPED AT GREATER LENGTH IN OM TO BE SUBMITTED.
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